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Navy League of the United States
Greater Columbus Ohio Council
P.O. Box 9531
Columbus, Ohio 43209-0531

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

July 15, 2004

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

To: Federal Communications Commission
Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman
Honorable Kathleen Abernathy
Honorable Jonathan Adelstein
Honorable Michael Copps
Honorable Kevin Martin

From: Greater Columbus Ohio Council, Navy League of the US

Re: WC Docket 03-133

Via: Fax (866-418-00232/202-418-0710)

Dear Commissioners:

The Navy League of the U.S. is comprised of tens of thousands of veterans, military reservists, and civilians who support the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S.-flagged merchant Marine in times of war and peace. Our orientation is specifically non-political, and this missive is being sent with the sole consideration of the morale and welfare of our military personnel worldwide.

The Columbus Ohio Council of the Navy League urges you not to change the classification of the "enhanced" feature of pre-paid calling cards or to otherwise subject them to higher charges or fees, as contemplated in WC Docket 03-133.

Pre-paid calling cards are used by millions of Americans, including many veterans and military personnel. These cards are especially important to military personnel on active duty because they are easy to carry, reduce the need to carry cash, are usable when a cell phone won't work, they facilitate calling when it's impractical to have a personal telephone, and they significantly reduce the personal cost of long-distance telephoning.

The members of our Armed Services are asked to sacrifice a great deal in these challenging times. The Navy League believes you should help make telecommunications alternatives more affordable and accessible to them, not less so. It is simply unfair to send young men and women on active duty overseas, or to a base far from home, and then say, "Oh by the way, now we're going to make it more expensive to call your family."

Please consider those who are defending our great Country and reject any proposal to increase fees on pre-paid calling cards. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William F. Hanf

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